

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 SAM-01 OMB-01 EB-07 OES-06 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

/081 W

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O 031155Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6599

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY OSLO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

USDOCOSOUTH IMMEDIATE

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR IMMEDIATE

CINCUSAFAE RAMSTEIN IMMEDIATE

COMSIXTHFLT IMMEDIATE

DIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 9340

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU

SUBJECT: SISMIC OPERATIONS IN THE AEGEAN: GOG DEMARCHE

REF: ATHENS 9307 (DTG 021507Z SEP 76)(NOTAL)

1. CONFIRMING MY TELECON LATE LAST NIGHT WITH EUR/SE,
DIRECTOR GENERAL TZOUNIS OF FOREIGN MINISTRY TELEPHONED
WITH A GOG DEMARCHE CONCERNING THE SISMIC'S PLANNED
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OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH IN THE AEGEAN. TZOUNIS

SAID HE WAS ACTING UNDER DIRECT INSTRUCTIONS FROM PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS (FOREIGN MINISTER BITSIOS IS AWAY ON AN OFFICIAL VISIT IN OSLO). HIS DEMARCHE CONSISTED OF AN ORAL MESSAGE AS FOLLOWS:

A) DESPITE THE RECENT ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND, INDEED, IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING ITS ADOPTION AND DURING A PERIOD WHEN THE GREEK AND TURKISH GOVERNMENTS WERE ENDEAVORING TO ARRANGE MEETINGS CONCERNING THE AEGEAN PROBLEMS BETWEEN THEIR TWO FOREIGN MINISTERS, THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT HAS ANNOUNCED IT WAS SENDING THE SISMIC FOR FURTHER OPERATIONS AND RESEARCH IN THE AEGEAN. MOREOVER, THE AREA IN WHICH THE RESEARCH IS SCHEDULED TO BE CONDUCTED HAS EXPANDED, BEING EVEN WEST OF CONCESSIONS AWARDED BY THE PREVIOUS GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER ECEVIT IN JULY 1974. ALSO, THE LENGTH OF TIME FOR SUCH RESEARCH HAS BEEN EXPANDED TO A PERIOD OF 25 DAYS.

B) SUCH AN ANNOUNCEMENT AND THE PLANNED OPERATIONS OF THE SISMIC CAN ONLY BE REGARDED BY THE GOG AS "AN INTENTIONAL PROVOCATION".

C) THIS DEVELOPMENT WILL NOT, REPEAT NOT "FACILITATE THE RESUMPTION OF THE DIALOGUE" BETWEEN GREECE AND TURKEY.

D) SUCH "PROVOCATIONS" BY TURKEY "CANNOT CONTINUE TO GO UNCHECKED".

2. I ASKED TZOUNIS WHAT STEPS OR ACTIONS, IF ANY, THE GOG WAS TAKING, AND HE SAID THE FOLLOWING:

A) THE GOG WANTED "THE FOUR" WHO HAD ASSISTED GREECE DURING THE RECENT SECURITY COUNCIL CONSIDERATION OF THE MATTER "TO BE INFORMED". (AND, PRESUMABLY, HE WAS ALSO CONTACTING THE BRITISH, FRENCH, AND ITALIAN GOVERNMENTS);

B) THE GOG WAS ALSO INSTRUCTING ITS ACTING CONFIDENTIAL

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PERMREP IN NEW YORK TO INFORM THE SECURITY COUNCIL;

C) THE GOG WAS ALSO INSTRUCTING THE GREEK AMBASSADOR IN ANKARA TO TAKE THE MATTER UP WITH THE GOT (ALTHOUGH TZOUNIS WAS NOT SPECIFIC ON WHAT HIS INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE).

3. IN RESPONSE TO MY QUESTION, TZOUNIS SAID THAT

GREECE WAS NOT REPEAT NO REQUESTING THE USG TO TAKE ANY ACTION BUT MERELY WANTED TO KEEP US INFORMED AND THAT THE DEMARCHE WAS "IN THAT SPIRIT".

4. I EXPRESSED TO TZOUNIS OUR APPRECIATION AT BEING KEPT INFORMED AND SAID THAT WHILE I HAD NO SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS I WANTED TO URGE THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO DEAL WITH THIS DEVELOPMENT WITH THE UTMOST RESTRAINT AND TO ENCOURAGE THE MOST THOUGHTFUL, PRUDENT AND MEASURED REACTION. I SAID THAT GREECE HAD AMPLE PEACEFUL AND LEGAL MEANS AVAILABLE TO PRESERVE ITS INTERESTS AND LEGAL POSITION, AND IN THIS WAY FRIENDS AND ALLIES WOULD HAVE BETTER OPPORTUNITIES TO TRY AND BE HELPFUL IN DEALING WITH THE SITUATION. TZOUNIS VOLUNTEERED THAT HE THOUGHT THE GREEK GOVERNMENT REACTION THUS FAR COULD BE CHARACTERIZED AS QUITE RESTRAINED.

5. TZOUNIS ADDED THAT THE SISMIC WAS REPORTED TO BE ON THE SOUTHWEST SIDE OF THE GREEK ISLAND OF SAMOTHRACE AT 7:00 P.M. LAST EVENING, "JUST SKIRTING THE ISLAND'S WESTERN TERRITORIAL WATERS," AND IT APPEARED THAT THIS WAS THE "FIRST VIOLATION" BY THE SISMIC IN THIS NEW PHASE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DEMARCHE, RESEARCH, SISMIK I R/V, PROGRAMS (PROJECTS)
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ATHENS09340
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760335-0239
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760995/aaaadccs.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 ATHENS 9307
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <04 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <05 AUG 2004 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SISMIK OPERATIONS IN THE AEGEAN: GOG DEMARCHE
TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, GR, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006